

Message Text

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TAGS: CVIS, TBIO, SOPN, CA

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER CONTINUES INTEREST IN MOVEMENT OF CANADIAN

DOCTORS TO U.S. -- BLAMES IT ON CANADIAN MEDICARE

ECONOMIES

REF: TORONTO 1668

1. IN EDITORIAL PAGE OPINION COLUMN JULY 20, TORONTO STARR STAFF WRITER ROBERT NEILSEN UNDER THREE COLUMN HEADLINE "WARNING: EXODUS OF DOCTORS FROM CANADA POSES NO THREAT -- YET," WRITES THAT ONTARIO MEDICA PROGRAM, "PARTICULARLY ITS RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR FEES," HAS SENT HUNDREDS OF CANADIAN DOCTORS TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS "AS FUGITIVES FROM MEDICARE." "THIS EXODUS POSES NO EARLY THREAT OF A SCARCITY OF MEDICAL SERVICES, SINCE CANADA HAS A RISING SURPLUS OF DOCTORS, AND SINCE A BIG MAJORITY OF CANADIAN DOCTORS INTEND TO REMAIN HERE.

2. NEILSEN USES AS AN EXAMPLE DR. WILLIAM MILAWSKI WHO AFTER 15 YEARS IN PRACTICE IN URBAN BURLINGTON, ONTARIO MOVED TO CUT BANK, MONTANA. NEISEN WRITES THAT MILAWSKI'S REAL INCOME HAD BEEN FALLING SINCE 1968 AND QUOTED DOCTOR IN LAST YEAR IN CANADA UNCLASSIFIED

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AS GROSSING DOLS 74,000, BUT AFTER OVERHEAD HAVING ONLY DOLS 33,000 BEFORE TAXES AND DOLS 23,000 AFTER TAXES. NEILSEN CONTINUES QUOTING DOCTOR THAT TO GROSS DOLS 72,000 AT CURRENT FEE SCHEDULE IN ONTARIO, DOLS 7.20 PER VISIT, A DOCTOR NEED 10,000 PATIENT CONTACTS A YEAR WHICH MEANS NOT ONLY HEAVY PATIENT LOAD BUT A PILE OF PAPER WORK. AT MONTANA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DR. MILAWSKI

DOING RESEARCH AND SOME MEDICAL CARE FOR SALARY OF
DOLS 45,000 TO DOLL 55,000 A YEAR PLUS FRINGE BENEFITS.

3. NEILSEN CONCLUDES "THE 'AMERICAN FENIAN RAIDS' ON
THE PROFESSION, AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HAS CALLED THEM, ARE A WARNING NOT
TO GO TOO FAR IN ECONOMIZING ON MEDICARE AT THE EXPENSE
OF THE DOCTORS."

4. COMMENT:THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS BEEN RECEIVING
INCREASING QUERIES FROM MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND THE
MEDIA REGARDING THE NUMBER OF DOCTORS LEAVING FOR
THE UNITED STATES AND EXPECT THAT THIS "BRAIN DRAIN"
ASPECT MAY BE WITH US FOR SOME TIME. NEILSEN'S
COLUMN DOES CONTRIBUTE TO A RATIONAL EXPLANATION
OF THE PEHNOMENON AND HIS ARTICLE MIGHT BE OF
ASSISTANCE IN ANSWERING FUTURE QUERIES. COPIES OF
THE ARTICLE ARE BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.
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